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PRESS RELEASE

Attempted Suicide – Eugene Hickernell

An inmate at the Sussex Correctional Institution (SCI) in Georgetown is being treated for self-inflicted injuries.

76-year old Eugene Hickernell, (DOB 02/16/1930) of Millville, Delaware was found cutting himself in his cell early this morning. Security and Medical teams responded immediately and Hickernell was treated in the prison infirmary and an outside hospital for cuts around his neck area. He was returned to SCI and has been placed on suicide watch as a result.

It is believed that Hickernell used part of a blade from a plastic shaving razor he'd gotten in the commissary (the prison store) to cut himself. His cellmate alerted correctional officers and staff caught him in the act.

The preliminary results of the investigation into the case suggest that this act was an attempt to avoid or delay being transferred back to a Florida Prison where he is to serve time on an existing sentence. Hickernell was transferred from the Florida Prison to Delaware on December 13, 2005 to face sex offenses and other charges lodged against him in Delaware.

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Hickernell was sentenced on 05/26/06 on Rape 3rd (2 counts) and Rape 2nd without consent. He is sentenced to 20 years at Level 5 (prison) and 20 years Level 3 probation. The Delaware court order states that this sentence will begin upon the completion of the Florida sentence. The Florida sentence is due to be completed on May 28, 2008. His charges in Florida are for Armed Robbery. Hickernell had been in custody in Florida from 05/16/03 until he was transferred to Delaware to face charges in December of 2005.

Delaware State Police and Department of Correction investigators are reviewing the matter, as is standard procedure.

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